

Ex H 199

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FACTS OF JAPANESE AGGRESSION
IN NORTH CHINA

(I) NORTHERN CHAHAR INCIDENT

In June 1935, two Japanese army officers and two Japanese soldiers came from Doran by motor car and passed through Chang Pei District en route to Kalgan. When they arrived at the north gate of the Chang Pei District, they did not submit themselves to the inspection of the guards, nor did they possess entry permits. (Regulation requires that Japanese entering the Province of Chahar should secure in advance through the Japanese Consul at Kalgan entry permits from the Chahar Provincial Government.) Under these circumstances, the commanding officer of the guards at the north gate of the Chang Pei District took these four men to the Headquarters of General CHAO Tang-yu, Commander of the 132nd Division, inside the city of Chang Pei. Commander CHAO asked by telephone for instructions from General SUNG Che-yuan, Commander of the 29th Army, at Kalgan, who permitted these Japanese to proceed to Kalgan through Chang Pei, stressing, however, that this should not be taken as a precedent and that hereafter those desiring to enter the Province must have entry permits with them as prescribed by regulations. These four Japanese went on to Kalgan, and further proceeded to Peiping.

After the departure of the said Japanese, HASHIMOTO, the Japanese Consul at Kalgan, suddenly protested, alleging that while the guards demanded to search these Japanese officers and men at the north gate of the Chang Pei District, they aimed their rifles at them, and that they were detained for four or five hours after arriving at the Headquarters of the Division, and that such constituted insults to the Japanese army men. He demanded the punishment of responsible officers and apology from the Chinese authorities. He also demanded assurance against recurrence of similar nature. General SUNG ordered me to negotiate in the capacity of the Deputy Commander of the 29th Army. After several talks, HASHIMOTO suddenly announced that the situation of the incident became grave and it was beyond the power of the Consul to settle it. The matter was referred to the Headquarters of the Japanese Garrison Forces in Tientsin. Major General DOHIHARA was the representative of the Garrison Forces. Thereupon, I went to Peiping and DOHIHARA also arrived at Peiping, where we proceeded with our negotiations.

The results of the negotiations were roughly as follows:

- (a) The Regiment Commander who was in charge of the garrison at the said gate should be dismissed and punished.
- (b) The Judge Advocate of the Headquarters of the 132nd Division who detained these Japanese officers should be dismissed and punished.
- (c) The units of the 29th army should be withdrawn from Paochang, Kangpao, Shangtu, Kuyuan and Huatch (Chia-pu-shih), these being Districts north of Chang Pei. The maintenance of peace and order there should be entrusted to the Peace Preservation Corps.
- (d) Chinese should henceforth refrain from migrating to and settling in the northern part of the Chahar Province.
- (e) Activities of the Kuomintang Party should be withdrawn from the Chahar Province.
- (f) Anti-Japanese institutions and anti-Japanese acts in the Chahar Province should be banned.

The proceedings and the results of the said negotiations were telegraphically reported to the Central Government by General SUNG and myself asking for the Government's necessary approval. The Chinese Government, in seeking for peace, did not refrain from making compromises one after another, yet the progress of the aggressions by Japanese militarists never ceased. During the said negotiations, although TAKAHASHI, Wataru, Military Attache of the Japanese Embassy in China, also participated, it was DOHIMARA, Kenji, who actually controlled the whole thing.

(II) INDUCEMENT AND THREAT BOTH PRIOR TO
AND AFTER THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE
HOPEI-CHAHAR POLITICAL COUNCIL

When General SUNG Che-yuan was appointed the Garrison Commander of the Peiping and Tientsin Area in September 1935, the Japanese sent DOHIMARA to Peiping many times to instigate attempting to form a North China Autonomous Government, to estrange the local government from the central government.

The inducement tactics were:

- (a) To install General SUNG Che-Yuan as the leader of the North China Autonomous Government.

- (b) Japanese would extend every possible aid concerning military and economic affairs in North China.

This was repeatedly expressed by DOHIMARA to Mr. SHIAO Cheng-Ying, ex-Mayor of Tientsin, but was refused on all occasions by the Chinese side. Later, MATSUMURO, Koryo the Chief of the Japanese Special Service Board in Peiping, and TAKAHASHI, Wataru, the Military Attache of the Japanese Embassy continued to make such demands from time to time. They failed altogether. The Central Government appointed General SUNG Che-juan as the Chairman of the Hopei-Chahar Political Council, to be in charge of military and political affairs in Hopei and Chahar Provinces and in Peiping and Tientsin. General SUNG's measures in military and political affairs all conformed to the wishes of the Central Government, such as the election for the people's Congress, and the concentrated military training of college students, all to the disfavor of the Japanese. The Japanese then realized that their inducement tactics had failed.

So the Japanese changed their inducement tactics into threatening actions, which were as follows:

(a) Political

1. According to the Japanese demand, General SUNG should announce by circular telegrams the establishment of a North China Autonomous Government.
2. The Central Government's personnel in charge of publicity still remaining in North China should be withdrawn.
3. Public opinion in Peiping and Tientsin should be controlled and opposition to autonomy should not be permitted.

(The above three demands were directly presented by DOHIMARA and TAKAHASHI, Wataru, to Mr. SHIAO Cheng-ying)

(b) Economic

1. A railway should be constructed between Tientsin and Shih-chia-chuan.
2. The custom tariffs at the Tientsin Maritime Customs should be so revised as to increase the tariff of European and American commodities, and to decrease that of Japanese commodities.

(The above two items were demanded by DOHIMARA and MATSUI, the Chief of the Japanese Special Service Board in Peiping, through Mr. Chen Cho-sung, the Director of the Peiping and Liaoning Railway, to General SUNG and myself. These demands were refused by us.)

(c) Military

In September 1936, the Fengtai Incident occurred. A company of Japanese soldiers carried out maneuvers in Fengtai. They passed through the garrison line of the Chinese army. Clash ensued when our patrols attempted to halt them. Although it was immediately settled, the Japanese use this as a pretext for reinforcement of their troops which occupied Fengtai. It was a battalion, under the command of Major ICHINOGE, Kiyonao.

Besides, there was another instance. MATSUI, Iwane, in the Autumn of 1935, came to Peiping. He was a General in retirement at that time, and advocated Greater Asiaism. He hoped to establish a branch of the Greater Asia Association in Peiping. Through the introduction of Mr. CHEN Cho-sung, Director of the Peiping and Liaoning Railway, he met General SUNG and myself. Both of us expressed our disfavor. MATSUI, in his conversation with me, advocated that Asia should be the Asia of the Asiatics, and that European and American influences should be expelled. I smiled and replied, saying that I was afraid that what he meant by Asia of the Asiatics was actually the Asia of the Japanese. Unless there were real equality and reciprocity, nothing could be discussed.

/s/ CHING Teh-chun,
Formerly, Deputy Commander of the 29th
Army,
At present, Vice-Minister, Ministry of
National Defense.

Dated: 10 June 1946, at Nanking.